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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, July 23, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended July 18 totaled an estimated 17.8 billion ton-miles, 7.0 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

The cumulative volume for the first 29 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 501.4 billion ton-miles, 1.1 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended July 18 totaled 425,607 cars, 5.0 percent above 1980, and 9.0 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 18.2 percent in the East and 0.5 percent in the West, but down 0.8 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 12 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings showed an increase of 21,797 cars, or 22.4 percent, metallic ores were up 11,205 cars, or 38.1 percent, and loadings of coke registered a 52.5 percent increase. Sixteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended July 11 totaled 30,118 cars, up 8.4 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 51,704 trailers and/or containers, up 3.5 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 28 weeks of the year was 906,666 cars, 0.3 percent higher than last year, and 1,635,436 trailers and/or containers, down 0.5 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 7/18/81:

	Loadings in Week ended July 18, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	23,820	D	8,826	27.0	I	3,688	18.3
Other farm products	3,936	D	461	10.5	I	231	6.2
Metallic ores	40,624	I	11,205	38.1	I	1,556	4.0
Coal	119,033	I	21,797	22.4	I	18,569	18.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,238	D	1,043	7.3	I	120	0.9
Nonmetallic minerals	15,747	D	487	3.0	I	652	4.3
Grain mill products	13,583	D	2,901	17.6	I	1,270	10.3
Food and kindred products	14,622	D	2,617	15.2	I	822	6.0
Primary forest products	18,221	D	1,734	8.7	I	1,512	9.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,525	D	981	11.5	I	1,332	21.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	17,668	D	1,434	7.5	I	1,572	9.8
Chemicals and allied products	23,558	I	95	0.4	D	556	2.3
Petroleum products	4,877	D	423	8.0	D	59	1.2
Stone, clay and glass products	13,919	D	868	5.9	I	75	0.5
Coke	6,250	I	2,152	52.5	D	530	7.8
Metals and products	14,856	I	2,443	19.7	I	998	7.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	12,725	I	1,139	9.8	D	478	3.6
Waste and scrap materials	11,316	I	1,749	18.3	I	906	8.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,326	D	1,061	11.3	I	474	6.0
All other carloads	39,583	I	2,324	6.2	I	2,912	7.9
LCL traffic	180	I	38	26.8		--	--
Total Cars Loaded	423,607	I	20,106	5.0	I	35,066	9.0
Corresponding week of 1980	403,501						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (29 weeks)	11,986,387	12,607,624	D	4.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
28 Weeks cumulative	483.7	490.4	D	1.4
Week ended July 18	17.8	16.6	I	7.0
29 Weeks cumulative	501.4	507.0	D	1.1

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